Artistic Creations missing from National Museum

†3611. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of pieces of artistic creations are missing from the National Museum; if so, the number thereof and when and how these have been missing;

(b) whether Government have taken any action to fix responsibility, to punish the guilty and to get back the said lost pieces;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction with regard to the necessity and importance of these missing pieces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism & Culture (Department of Culture) has informed that a Physical Verification Committee has been set up in 1996 for physical and scientific verification of art objects of National Museum. Based on a Public Interest Litigation filed in 1997 before it, the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi had directed that the reports of this Committee may be submitted to it regularly in sealed cover. Thus the Hon'ble High Court is monitoring this aspect closely and regularly. The reports of the Physical Verification Committee are being submitted to the Hon'ble Court regularly and in fact recently in December, 2000 the Hon'ble Court has disposed of the above petition with the direction to the Committee to submit its reports to it regularly in sealed cover.

Affairs of ICSSR

3612. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an intense power struggle and unsavory controversies are going on in the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), which hamper its smooth working;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided recently to stop release of funds

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to ICSSR which has been causing a lot of hardships and heart-burns among social scientists and non-academic staff working in 27 research centers across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to be taken for streamlining of ICSSR and mitigating the hardships and grievances of its staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) As per information provided by ICSSR, there is no such controversy.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Grants are being released to the Council regularly. In fact, the budget of the Council has been substantially enhanced during the last two years.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Replacement of ICSSR Chairman

3613. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand for replacement of the ICSSR Chairman, for alleged irregularities in the running of the research body; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Complaints were received from some of the sitting members of the Council regarding various irregularities committed by the Chairman, ICSSR. The Government looked into the matter and withdrew the nomination of Prof. M.L. Sondhi as Chairman, ICSSR. Prof. Sondhi has filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court and the matter is subjudice.

Mining in tribal areas in AP by non-tribals

3614. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to amend the Fifth Scheduled of the